

11/16/2025

Re: CON #25-033 Lake Forest Hospital Open Heart Surgery – Letter of Support

My name is Bruce Williams and I live in Antioch Illinois, which is a Chicago suburb up north by the Wisconsin border. My family moved to Glencoe Illinois from Los Gatos California in 1968, when I was 15 years old. I enjoyed a long career in the Graphic Arts and retired from Leo Burnett Advertising as a Vice-President in 2005. Since then, I have been working as a singer-guitar player specializing in Rhythm & Blues, although business has been slow since The Corona Virus and my heart problems in 2020.

On June 6th 2020, I was on my way to an annual checkup with my NM primary care physician when I started experiencing A-fib, and drove straight to ER in Lake Forest. After a cath lab stent procedure performed by Dr. Tim Provias, I was sent downtown to The Bluhm Cardiovascular Institute and Feinberg Pavillion for further study. On July 10th, a double bypass was performed by Dr. Amit Pawale and his team. On August 15th, an Endo-Vascular Graft was installed in my lower aorta to treat an aneurysm by Dr. Herron Rodriguez and the vascular surgery folks in the Galter Pavillion. That was the beginning of my long journey of recovery.

I am so grateful for the care I've received from Northwestern Medicine, and I feel so fortunate that I am leading a quality life, in spite of all my cardio-vascular issues.

I've been to the downtown hospital many times since 2020, and my care has been outstanding. The distance from home can be problematic however, not just for the patient but also the families. I have to arise at 3:30AM to get to the hospital at 7:30 AM., and that goes for whoever is driving me. During extended stays, having family and friends visit can be uplifting and healing, but I get fewer visitors because of the distance. This could have been a factor when I had the femoral bypass, which involved an extended stay (4/22/25).

The expenses run higher from gas and tolls due to the distance from my home to the downtown facility, and even with the parking discount, it's very expensive to park at the downtown parking facilities.

I am very supportive of an expansion of cardiac care at the Lake Forest hospital. This facility would benefit the patients like me in the northern and northwest suburbs, and bring your services closer to the people of Wisconsin.

Sincerely,

Bruce D Williams
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Antioch, IL 60002

